

honorable tradition. Like his great-grandfather, he has a proud history of maintaining the traditional ways of his peoples, and fights tirelessly to improve living standards on the reservation. In 1870, Chief Red Cloud's great-grandfather spoke in New York City, saying, "We do not want riches, we do not ask for riches, but we want our children properly trained and brought up." Chief Red Cloud continues to carry out that call, preserving the Lakota way of life, so that young children will have the opportunity to embrace their language and culture.

As many of you know, he gives unselfishly of himself to help those in need. He is generous with his knowledge—offering guidance to those who seek it. I know this, because even as I visited him in the hospital to offer him my support, he was offering me his wisdom.

Chief Red Cloud offers guidance to those who seek it, and I am thankful to be a recipient of his wisdom. Because of his wisdom and his passion, Chief Red Cloud has been able to bridge differences, find creative solutions to problems facing the Great Sioux Nation, and make sure the voices of his people are heard. In so doing, he has earned the respect of Indian nations and strengthened this Nation's independence and sovereignty.

As Makhpiya-Luta once said, "All I want is right and just."

We have challenging times ahead of us, breaking down barriers that have existed for far too long; but by working together we can build a society where each individual and community becomes whole.

That, too, is what is right and just.

Please join me in honoring Chief Red Cloud for his leadership, counsel and guidance. I know we will continue our dialogue, and I look forward to working with all of you.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL TOMMY L. PARKER

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to an authentic American hero who gave his life in the defense of his Nation. Cpl Tommy L. Parker, Jr., 21, of Heber Springs was one of four marines killed June 21 in Ramadi, Iraq. He was serving with a sniper platoon of the First Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, CA.

Tommy was a 2001 graduate of Triple S Christian Academy. The Rev. John Bishop, who taught Tommy, praised his devotion to his faith, saying that even when surrounded by tough marines he was not too shy to give witness to his beliefs. As Tommy prepared to leave for Iraq, Bishop said Parker's wife told him, he remarked that the experience was bringing him closer to God.

Tommy is survived by his wife, Carla Parker; his daughter, Lara; and his parents, Tommy and Renatta.

Tommy's sacrifice is a shining example of the commitment that is necessary to keep this Nation free. When his Nation called, he answered. Our prayers and gratitude go out to his family for the great service that Tommy rendered to our Nation.

STAFF SERGEANT DUSTIN W. PETERS

Mr. President, today I also wish to pay tribute to a brave Arkansan who gave his life for the cause of freedom. Air Force SSgt Dustin W. Peters was killed July 11 when his convoy was hit

by homemade bombs about 150 miles north of Baghdad.

Dustin was born August 22, 1978, in Texarkana, TX. He attended high school in El Dorado, KS, and in Shirley, AR, before going into the Air Force in 1997. Dustin received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart posthumously. The Bronze Star Medal is given to individuals who distinguish themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement or meritorious service while serving in a combat theater, according to base officials. Dustin received his for heroism.

Dustin is survived by his son, Dalton, of El Dorado, KS; his mother, Linda Benning, of Shirley, AR; and his father, Dennis, of Enid, OK.

His fellow airmen said of Dustin that "you could count on . . . his service to our country and others always came ahead of his own needs and desires. His loss has touched us deeply, and we will miss him." Not only will his fellow airmen miss him but a grateful Nation will miss him. His sacrifice will never be forgotten.

PRIVATE VAN RYAN MARCUM

Mr. President, today I also wish to pay tribute to a brave young Arkansan who lost his life training to become a member of the United States Army. PVT Van Ryan Marcum, 21, a native of Prescott, AR, was electrocuted June 19 during an infantry basic training exercise when he touched a metal structure electrically charged by a faulty light fixture.

Van Ryan Marcum was memorialized at Fort Benning, GA. Joining the 220 soldiers from Charlie Company, with whom Marcum served, were his mother, grandmother, uncle and other family members invited to witness the tribute to the young man so interested in becoming an Army Ranger. As the ceremony unfolded, some soldiers grieved silently with bowed heads; others could not suppress quiet sniffles as the music played and the tributes were delivered.

CPT Kevin Salge, commander of Charlie Company, was quoted as saying that it was an honor to count among his unit's soldiers a trooper such as Marcum, who had a bright future in the military. "As soon as he completed a task he was ready for another. He carried his weight and more," Salge said. "He would have been a great addition to the Army."

Van's desire to defend his Nation is a tribute to his courage and dedication. We honor the sacrifice he made in the service of his country.

SPECIALIST DONALD R. McCUNE II

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in South Bend, IN. SP Donald R. McCune II, 20 years old, died on August 5 in a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany from injuries sustained after an explosive device detonated near his patrol vehicle in

Balad, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Donald chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Donald spent his early childhood through part of high school in South Bend before moving to Michigan. He joined the Army National Guard shortly thereafter, following a long family tradition of military service. According to family and friends, enlisting was something he felt he needed to do. Donald was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, Army National Guard, Moses Lake, WA. Previously, he served with an Army Reserve unit based in Fraser for almost 2 years. This past spring, Donald was deployed to Iraq, where he bravely fought for 3 months before sacrificing his life for the worthy cause of freedom. Rick Monier, Donald's grandfather told the Detroit Free Press, "It was sad he had to pass away—he or any other soldier—but it was for freedom, and he believed in the cause."

Donald was the thirty-first Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Darcy Lewis; his stepfather Benjamin Lewis; his father, Donald McCune; his sister, Casandra Karczewski; his brother, Josh McCune; his grandmother, Gladys Gilbert; his grandfather, Rick Monier; his step-grandmother, Dianne Ronier; and his maternal great-grandmother, Beth Gilbert.

Today, I join Donald's family, his friends and all Americans in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this tremendous loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Donald, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Donald was known for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. When looking back on the life of her late son and his plans for the future, Darcy told the Detroit Free Press, "He knew the risks of fighting and had even talked about returning to Iraq after his stint was over and doing security work." Today and always, Donald will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Donald's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am

certain that the impact of Donald's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Donald R. McCune II in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Donald's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Donald.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LUIS A. PEREZ

Mr. President, I also rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in East Chicago, IN. PFC Luis A. Perez, 19 years old, died on August 16 when the fuel truck he was driving struck a land mine in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Luis chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Luis spent his early childhood in East Chicago where he attended McKinley Elementary School before moving to Hammond and attending Morton High School. He joined the Army Reserves shortly after graduating from high school, following in his father's footsteps of military service. Luis was assigned to the 223rd Transportation Company, United States Reserve, Norristown, PA. This summer, Luis was deployed to Kuwait and from there was sent to Iraq, where he bravely fought before sacrificing his life for the worthy cause of freedom.

Luis was the thirty-third Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his wife, Theresa; his mother, Maria Miranda; his father, Jose; his grandmother, Clara Madrigal; and two sisters.

Today, I join Luis' family, his friends and all Americans in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this tremendous loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Luis, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Luis was known for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. According to family and friends, enlisting was something Luis had wanted to do since he was very young. His grandmother, Clara Madrigal told the Times of Northwest Indiana that she remembers Luis as a boy saying that he wanted to grow up and be a "green man." When Clara inquired as to what a "green

man" was, her grandson responded, "A soldier, like my father." Aside from being a soldier, Luis enjoyed playing video games and basketball and writing poetry. Today and always, Luis will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Luis' sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Luis' actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Luis A. Perez in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Luis' can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Luis.

SERGEANT DAVID M. HEATH

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from LaPorte, IN. SGT David M. Heath, 20 years old, died on August 16 in the Sadr City district of Baghdad when his patrol came under a small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attack. With his entire life before him, David chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

David attended New Prairie High School until 10th grade before moving to nearby LaPorte. There, he met his wife Donna, and in September 2001 decided to join the military to support his family and make his father proud. After his first 10-month assignment in Iraq in 2003, David returned home but decided to re-enlist expecting to move to Germany. Instead, his orders were to report to another tour of duty in Iraq. David's stepfather, Ed Modjeska, told the Laporte Herald-Argus that David realized his second trip overseas would be dangerous, "but he knew he had to go, it was his job. . . . He wanted to serve his country."

David was the 32nd Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave

young soldier leaves behind his wife Donna Heath; his son Derek; and his stepdaughter, Angela Riffel. May David's children grow up knowing that their father gave his life so that young Iraqis will some day know the freedom they enjoy.

Today, I join David's family, his friends and the entire LaPorte community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of David, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

David, a fourth-generation soldier, was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. When looking back on David's life, family friend Robin Dingman told WSBT-TV of South Bend that "He loved his kids, he loved his wife, he love NASCAR, but that was a given. As bad as this is, he died nobly, and that is a great honor." Today and always, David will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring David's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of David's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of David M. Heath in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like David's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with David.

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ERIC KNOTT

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Eric Knott of Grand Island, NE, a Petty Officer 3rd Class in the U.S. Navy. Petty Officer Knott was killed in Iraq on September 4 in a mortar attack while working at a construction site. He was 21 years old.

Petty Officer Knott will be remembered as a proud individual dedicated to serving his country. He joined the U.S. Navy in 2001 after graduating from Grand Island Senior High School and became a Navy Seabee so he could learn specialty welding and help others. Petty Officer Knott spent about 9 months in Iraq last year and was recently redeployed in August. He had just been promoted and was overseeing a three-person unit.

Petty Officer Knott is survived by his parents Randy Knott of Grand Island and Vera Thorpe of Hastings; step-mother, Teri Knott of Grand Island; step-father Steve Thorpe of Hastings; brothers William and Tim of Seward; sister Angela of Lincoln; and grandparents Lyle and Arlene Knott and Masel Anderson, all of Grand Island. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Eric Knott's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Knott.

TRIBUTE TO INDIANAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER TIMOTHY LAIRD

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the remarkable life of Timothy "Jake" Laird, an Indianapolis police officer who was killed in the line of duty on August 18, 2004 by a gunman terrorizing an Indianapolis neighborhood.

During the early morning of August 18, Officer Laird left his own patrol area to come to the aid of fellow police officers in a nearby neighborhood who were facing a dangerous man armed with multiple assault weapons. Laird, a 4-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department, went out of his way to protect the citizens of Indianapolis by knowingly putting himself in danger, a selfless act that would cost him his life. Officer Laird, 31 years old, was the first Indianapolis police officer to die in the line of duty in 16 years.

Officer Laird graduated from Warren Central High School in 1991. After graduating from high school, he joined the Marines and married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer Lyn Reno, in 1992. Officer Laird served 8 years in the Marines before joining the Indianapolis Police Department in 2000, where he quickly distinguished himself as a confident, hardworking policeman who could be counted on by his fellow officers.

During his time with the Indianapolis Police Department, Officer Laird received two letters of commendation, though these respected symbols of official praise pale in comparison to the words his family and fellow officers used to describe his work. Those who knew him remember Officer Laird as a perfectionist who demanded the most of himself on the job but was the first to laugh at himself during lighter moments. He was known as the kind of of-

ficer that others wanted with them on patrol, and his willingness to put his life in danger to help another officer is the ultimate proof of the kind of man he was.

Officer Laird was a devoted family man who relished his time with loved ones. He leaves behind his wife, Jennifer; his daughter, Kaylee; his father, Tim Althouse; and his stepmother, Barb; his mother and stepfather, Debbie and Michael Laird; his two brothers, one sister and two step-brothers.

In the wake of his death, friends, neighbors and fellow officers came together to praise Officer Laird's bravery, selflessness and love for his family. According to his father, Jake had wanted to be a police officer ever since he was a little boy. Officer Laird was a role model not only for his family, but for all who knew him and whose lives he touched. He dedicated his life to the noblest of causes: his family, his job and keeping others safe. May his daughter grow up knowing that her father was a brave, hard-working and loving man.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Timothy "Jake" Laird into the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. As Officer Laird rests with God in eternal peace, let us never forget the courage and sacrifice he displayed when he laid down his life on August 18, 2004.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Scotty Joe Weaver, an 18-year-old gay Alabama man was beaten, stabbed, and his body burned in woods near his mobile home on July 18, 2004. Robert Porter, 18, Christopher Ryan Gaines, 20, and Gaines' girlfriend, Nichole Kelsay have been charged with the July 18 killing, which police believe was motivated by hate.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in support of this request for additional disaster assistance in the wake of Hurricanes Charley and Frances, and the devastation they have brought on the State of Florida. I, along with my Nebraska constituents, send our thoughts and prayers to those in Florida dealing with the physical and emotional impact of these hurricanes.

In Nebraska, we sympathize with the victims of natural disasters, whether they be caused by hurricanes, floods, or tornadoes. Presently, my State is facing its fifth straight year of record drought, which as you know has a damaging effect on the agricultural industry, as well the mainstreet of every Nebraska community. Multiple years of drought have cost our Nation billions of dollars in economic losses and has many farmers wondering whether they will be able to carry on. They are not in this position because of poor planning or some unfortunate weather incident but rather as the result of a continuous natural disaster that once again has turned upside down the hopes and work that went into planting this spring.

This drought is a disaster—it is been a disaster for agriculture and a disaster for rural communities, which depend so much on agriculture. I think that going home over the August recess certainly gave all of us from States hit by drought even more reason to seek assistance. I do not want to detract from the importance of sending disaster assistance to those in Florida. However, I believe that my colleagues must join me in casting a greater spotlight on the importance of helping our Nation's farmers and ranchers recover from the impacts of the current drought.

Therefore, I would like to join the Senator from South Dakota in calling on the President and the Congress to support funding for drought aid for our farmers and ranchers, and to fully fund the crop and livestock disaster programs so critical to Nebraska's farmers and ranchers.

A drought relief package is of the utmost importance to farmers and ranchers in Nebraska and across all those rural America parts suffering from this natural disaster. It will make the difference between keeping their farms or being forced out of agriculture—to the detriment of all of us who depend on the "breadbasket of the world." We must seek this assistance in order to ensure that our rural communities are not allowed to wither under the worst conditions in over half of a century.

I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in supporting drought assistance this year. Like any other natural disaster, this drought has hurt the very livelihoods of good, hardworking people who struggle every day to stay afloat even under normal conditions. It is imperative that we respond to this crisis in rural America.

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to address an issue of great importance to my State.

PASSAGE OF U.S.-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, recently the Senate passed S. 2610, the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement, which will be implemented by this legislation, will provide many benefits to